

Spud and onion day at the Capitol

Farmers Ending Hunger donate produce to Oregon Food Bank

East Oregonian

State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, hosted the Capitol's first ever "Spud Day" Monday in Salem to commemorate the donation of 33 tons of potatoes and 500 pounds of onions to the 2015 Governor's Food Drive. The produce was donated by Farmers Ending Hunger, an association of Eastern Oregon farms that give a portion of their harvest every month to the Oregon Food Bank.

As a legislator, Hansell said his focus is to make sure local farmers and ranchers have the support they need to thrive.

"Not only does Oregon agriculture feed Oregon citizens, it is our second-largest export around the world," Hansell said in a press release. "The more access to crucial resources like water our agricultural producers have, the stronger role they can play in Oregon's economy."

In 2013, 35,000 Oregon farms operated on 16.5 million acres. Potatoes and onions were the state's seventh- and eighth-top commodities, respectively, during that year. Oregon also produces 27 per-



Gov. Kate Brown speaks at the first annual Spud Day in front of the Oregon capitol building on Monday, March 2. Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, hosted the event that contributed potatoes and onions to the governor's food drive and also highlighted the importance of irrigated agriculture in Eastern Oregon and around the state.

cent of all U.S. onions each year.

Sen. Hansell was joined by Gov. Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, and Sen. Jackie Winters, R-Salem, during the celebration. Every senator on the Senate floor received a 5-pound bag of potatoes from Umatilla County farms.

The 2015 Governor's Food Drive is dedicated to former Gov. Vic Atiyeh, who died on July 20, 2014. Sen. Winters said they started the Oregon Food Share, which

later became the Governor's Food Drive, when she served as ombudsman for Atiyeh in 1979. Since then, it has raised the equivalent of 70 million pounds of food for Oregon families.

"Gov. Atiyeh then asked every state agency and the general public to help with feeding the hungry in Oregon, and I'm proud that we're still honoring that tradition 36 years later," Winters said.

Umatilla County farms have already earned quite

the national profile. Bud-Rich Potato, of Hermiston, is the national supplier of foil-wrapped baked potatoes for Wendy's restaurants. River Point Farms, also of Hermiston, supplies all red onions for Subway sandwiches, while Hale Farms on Butter Creek grows potatoes that go from harvest to McDonald's french fries in just two hours.

For more information or to donate to Farmers Ending Hunger, visit www.farmersendinghunger.com.

PENDLETON

Motorcycle rally lands big sponsor

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The new motorcycle rally rolling into Pendleton in late July already has a major sponsor. And police that work with rallies elsewhere in rural Oregon said major headaches have not been part of the events.

Pendleton Bike Week co-founder Eric Folkestad said Rattlesnake Mountain Harley-Davidson, Kennewick, is the big sponsor and will end up with a sizable chunk of real estate at the Pendleton Convention Center, headquarters for the July 22-26 rally. Folkestad announced the rally less than two weeks ago, and since then, he said, Pendleton-area businesses also have committed to be sponsors, including Wildhorse Resort & Casino and Hill Meat Co.

"It's tens of thousands of dollars in sponsorships from local businesses," he said. "It's really getting off the ground."

Companies from outside Oregon also have expressed interest in sponsorships for the Pendleton rally. Folkestad said word of rallies travels fast through motorcycle networks, and companies that specialize in the market are eager to connect to customers and build brand recognition. He also said he has heard from motorcyclists who are eager to ride hundreds of miles to Pendleton and said he stands by the estimate of 5,000 people coming to the first Pendleton Bike Week.

"It could be a lot more, the response we're getting is very strong," Folkestad said. Part of that, he said, comes from Pendleton's name recognition and the city's reputation for being friendly.

Folkestad and his brother, Steve Folkestad, organized the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally in Baker City for the better part of a decade, until Eric Folkestad broke off this winter to form the Pendleton event. Baker City police Chief Wyn Lohner said 2006 was the first year the rally became big, and each year the four-day event in mid July draws several thousand riders. Downtown Baker City, he said, can be quite a sight with as many as 1,000 motorcycles lining the streets, and twice that many are scattered around and outside of town.

Yet, he said, he could count on one hand the number of problems the rally-goers have caused, and he probably did not need every finger.

"It has been really interesting to watch and learn about their culture. These guys are professional people

who love ride motorcycles. It's really a kind of homecoming, it you will," Lohner said. "It's a big social event for them — they come and socialize with old friends."

And while they may toss back a few beers, they do not drive drunk nor raise a ruckus. Lohner praised the Folkestad brothers for making a rally that is about riding the scenic byways of Eastern Oregon and not about partying.

"The people that we encourage to participate are people looking for adventure and looking to discover new parts of the United States and especially the West," Folkestad said. "The West is a big draw for other parts of the country."

Still, Baker City police have all officers on duty for the rally. Lohner said that is not as a show force but to focus on community service and helping out. He also said after the first couple of years, Baker City police did not ask other agencies to send extra cops. The event was quiet enough they did not need to tap those resources.

The adults-only Run 21 was not quiet last year in the small community of Otis, but Sgt. Dave Shanks of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said the noise level was about the only real issue for the 1,000 or so bikers. He said organizers held the event on an enclosed ranch with plenty of space for participants and provided their own security and medical personnel. They also met with local law enforcement before and sought input.

"They had all the basics covered," Shanks said. "It was well organized."

And even with a beer garden, he said, drunk drivers were not a problem.

Run 21 may try to obtain a noise variance for this year's rally, which is the same week as Pendleton's, but Shanks said the sheriff's office is not likely to bend on that.

Folkestad also said the Pendleton rally would seek \$10 donations — "or whatever someone could give" — for the ride to honor fallen Umatilla County Sheriff Til Taylor and other fallen officers. That money would go to the Pendleton Police Department and Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. The agencies can use the fund to help with whatever projects they need, he said.

Lohner said donations from bikers allowed his department to have a police canine unit and two motorcycles.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

ECHO

Elementary school plans Seuss-ational Week

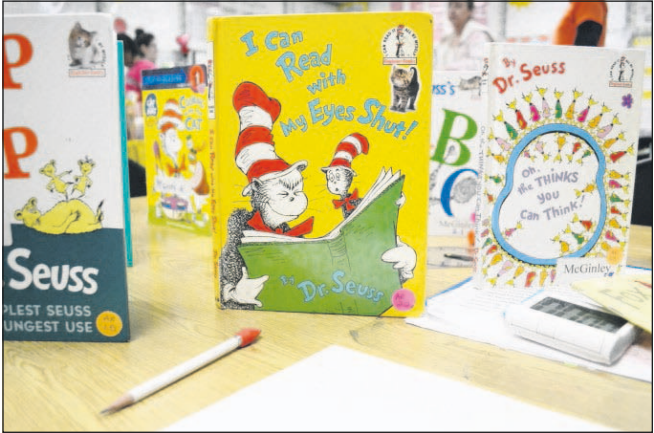
By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The silly rhymes and imaginative characters of Dr. Seuss made his books a favorite among kids and their parents.

Born March 2, 1904, Theodor Seuss Geisel, the popular children's author, wrote and illustrated 44 children's books. He received numerous awards, including a pair of Oscars, two Emmy awards and Peabody award. In 1984, he was recognized with a special citation by the Pulitzer Prize Board for his lifetime contribution to the education and enjoyment of children and adults.

Dr. Seuss, who died in 1991, is often celebrated during the anniversary of his birth. Several area schools are planning fun activities, including the Echo School District.

And the fun isn't just for kids, the school invites the public to participate in a



EO Media Group file photo

Dr. Seuss books are on display during a past Read Across America event celebrating the author's birthday.

Community Reading Hour Thursday beginning at 12:10 p.m. at 600 Gerone St., Echo. Those attending area asked to check in at the elementary hallway. While there, be sure to view Dr. Seuss artwork created for the school-wide art contest.

Also, for those able to tarry awhile, people are invited to stay for the Read Across America assembly at 1:20

p.m. Afterwards, a Dr. Seuss birthday party, complete with cake, will be held in the school's commons.

Throughout the week, Echo students are celebrating Dr. Seuss, including Monday when the focus was "Fox in Socks" and "The Cat in the Hat," which featured the wearing fun hats and silly socks, Tuesday's "Oh the Places You'll Go" focuses

on Career Day with students wearing clothes to match what they want to be when they grow up, and Wednesday for "I Can Read with My Eyes Shut" students will dress up as their favorite book character.

In promoting reading fluently, students are participating in a Read-Off Competition. Kindergarten and first graders will read "Hop on Pop," second and third graders will read "The Butter Battle Book" and fourth and fifth graders are reading from "On Beyond Zebra."

"The goal is to read as far as possible fluently without making any mistakes," said Pamela Reese, Echo Elementary School reading specialist.

For more information, contact Reese at pamela.reese@echo.k12.or.us or 541-376-8436.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

BOARDMAN

SAGE Center hosts second annual ag, energy job fair

East Oregonian

Job seekers will have the chance to visit with local food processors, farms and utilities during the SAGE Center's second annual Agriculture and Energy Job Fair on Wednesday.

The event highlights opportunities to live and work in Eastern Oregon, while connecting employers with prospective new employees.

Last year's job fair attracted more than 400 people, said SAGE Center Manager Kalie Davis, and they are hoping for a greater turnout this year. Area high schools have also been invited to the fair for students to learn about different career choices, and what kind of education they need to break into those industries.

Twenty-nine vendors will be lined up to provide information about programs and positions available to qualified applicants. New this year are Shearer's Snacks, Hermiston Foods and Amazon.com through its regional data centers.

Several colleges including Blue Mountain Community College, Walla Walla Community College, Perry Technical Institute, Oregon State University and Eastern Oregon University will be on hand to talk about educational opportunities for students.

Davis said attendees should come prepared with a resume and be prepared for a possible interview on site.

"These are some of the biggest employers in Eastern Oregon," Davis said. "There's a lot of jobs associated with agriculture and energy. It's not just farming, per se."

Statistics show Morrow County has the fifth-highest average annual wage in Oregon, at \$41,354. Only Wash-

ington, Multnomah, Benton and Clackamas counties rank higher.

Job fair participants can also learn more about the Boardman Community Development Association's Home Buying Incentive Program, which provides \$5,000 toward the purchase of a home in the Boardman

and Irrigon ZIP codes.

The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road in Boardman. For more information, visit www.visitsage.com or call 541-481-7243.

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